| U.S. P Upder to Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a col          | atent and Trademark Office: U. | PTO/SB/30 (08-06) rough 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE isplays a valid OMB control number. |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| REQUEST   | Application Number             | 09/624,384  |
| NU 2 0 2004 🛱   | Filing Date                    | July 27, 2000   |
| FOR EXAMINATION (RCE)   | First Named Inventor           | NOBUAKI FUKASAWA, et al.  |
|   | Group Art Unit                 | 2155  |
| TRANSMITTAL Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,                             | Examiner Name                  | P. Tran   |
| provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. | Attorney Docket Number         | 02500 044000  |
| See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).   | - memory 2 concernantial       | 03500.014682.   |
|   |                                |   |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 Previously submitted Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_ (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). i. ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_ iii. Other  $\mathbf{x}$ RECEIVED Enclosed i. **Preliminary Amendment** DEC 0 2 2004 ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) iii. iv. Technology Center 2100 Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) Other The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. Fees 3. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) i. 00000043 09624384 11/30/2004 JADD01 Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) ii. 790.00 OP iii. Other 01 FC:1801 Check in the amount of \$ 790.00 is enclosed Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED Name (Print/Type) Edward A. Kmett Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 42.746 Signature November 24, 2004 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail

Signature November 24, 2004 Date Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Director of the U.S.P.T.O., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the

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following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Edward A. Kmett (Reg. No. 42,746)

Name (Print/Type)